



Architectural Review Board

Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2009
City Hall, Council Chambers
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Approved
as amended
19 OCT 09
EFN

Members Present

Owen Lindauer, Chair
Jamie Scully
Donna Chasen
Lisa Peverill
Marilynn Mendell

Members Absent

Barry Waldman
Robin Wood

Staff

Erik Nelson

Mr. Lindauer called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Lindauer determined that a quorum was present. Mr. Nelson stated that public notice requirements had been met.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Lindauer announced that there was a Consent Agenda to consider Items 1, 2, and 4. He asked if anyone on the Board desired to move any of those items to the Regular Agenda. No member of the Board expressed a desire to amend the proposed Consent Agenda. Mr. Lindauer asked if anyone in attendance wanted to provide public testimony on Items 1, 2, and/or 4. No one in attendance expressed a desire to publicly comment on Items 1, 2, and 4. Mr. Lindauer said that Items 1, 2, and 4 would be considered under a Consent Agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Lindauer asked if there were additional items for the agenda.

Mr. Nelson asked to add the following items under Other Business:

- Item 4. Informal review of exterior alterations at 611 Caroline Street.
- Item 5. Transmittal of Virginia Preservation Plan and staff comments submitted to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.
- Item 6. Discussion of possible conference topics.
- Item 7. Board appointments and reappointments.

Mr. Lindauer noted that the applicant for Item #8 had a semi-emergency and needed to depart as soon as possible. Consequently, Item #8 would be considered after the action taken for the Consent Agenda. Mr. Skully made a motion to accept the Agenda, as amended. Ms. Chasen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Lindauer asked if there were any changes to the August 10, 2009 meeting minutes.

Mr. Skully made a motion to accept the minutes, as submitted. Ms. Chasen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION

Mr. Lindauer asked if any board member had a conflict of interest or had participated in ex parte communication on any of the agenda items. No one said that they had. Mr. Lindauer disclosed that staff had contacted him about Item #5, indicating that there was some citizen concern about the case and that the height of the proposed enclosure was being reduced from six (6) feet to five and one half (5.5) feet.

APPLICATIONS – CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Nelson presented the following applications:

- #1, HDT Engineering Services, Inc. – Signs at 415 Wolfe Street
- #2, Brush Strokes Gallery – Sign at 824 Caroline Street
- #4, Professional Image Advertising – Sign at 1006 Caroline Street

Ms. Peverill stated that she found the three proposals to be architecturally compatible with the historic aspects of Historic District and consistent with the City Code and made a motion for approval of the applications. Ms. Chasen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

APPLICATIONS – REGULAR AGENDA

8. 1108 Prince Edward Street (Grace Street Home Additions) – Addition

Shelly Myers said she was the architect representing the project. She thanked the Board for taking the case out of sequence. There was no public comment.

Mr. Lindauer thanked the applicant for providing such detailed information. He noted that the design packet contained everything necessary for review.

Mr. Skully said that he found the proposal to be architecturally compatible with the historic aspects of the Historic District and made a motion to approve the application. Ms. Chasen seconded.

Mr. Lindauer further noted that little discussion was needed since very little of the addition will be visible from the public right-of-way.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. 925 Caroline Street (Terry Smith) – Sign

Terry Smith was on hand to represent his application.

James Lawrence, 802 Caroline Street, made comments unrelated to the case.

Ms. Chasen asked if the logo on the sign would include the words, since these would simply repeat the lettering on the primary sign. Mr. Smith indicated he wanted to use the entire logo.

Ms. Mendell suggested the applicant consider a serif font to make his sign message more effective. She also asked if the phone number and address were necessary. Mr. Smith said he preferred to have those items on his sign, for those instances when the store is closed.

Mr. Skully questioned the chair as to the Board's purview when reviewing signs. Mr. Lindauer explained that the Board is supposed to act on the application presented, but can certainly offer suggestions and consider any amendments proposed by the applicant.

Ms. Peverill asked whether the birds in the two logos would mirror one another or be repetitive. Mr. Smith said he wanted to consider having them face each other.

Ms. Mendell wished the applicant well, but had some recommendations. She asked that Mr. Smith consider a serif font for the section that will read "unsurpassed customer service," that the two birds mirror one another, and that he forego the lettering in the logos since that wording is already on the sign and the graphic could be made larger without the words.

Ms. Peverill said she found the proposed sign to be architecturally compatible with the historic aspects of the Historic District and consistent with the City Code and made a motion to approve the submitted sign package. Ms. Chasen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. 407-409 William Street (University Café) – Accessory structure

Charity Owens was present to represent the applicant. She provided the Board with a sample of the composite material that has the appearance of wood. Mr. Nelson noted that the applicant had decided to reduce the height of the enclosure from six (6) feet to five and one half (5.5) feet.

Mr. James Lawrence, 802 Caroline Street, said he appreciated the applicant screening the trash and said he favored the proposed enclosure. He also said he appreciated the clear references to the City Code in the staff memo.

Mr. Skully clarified that the 5.5 foot height would still screen the dumpster. Ms. Owens confirmed that it would.

Mr. Lindauer noted that the dumpster was not very visible, that the materials to be used were products of their time, and that he had no concerns.

Ms. Chasen noted that the proposed composite was a high quality material.

Ms. Mendell said she found the proposed enclosure to be architecturally compatible with the historic aspects of the Historic District and made a motion to approve the application, as modified by the applicant. Ms. Chasen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6. 1308 Prince Edward Street (Mrs. Garrison) – Fence

Mrs. Garrison was present to represent the application. There was no public comment.

Mr. Lindauer said he had visited the site and had no concerns.

Mr. Skully said he found the fence to be architecturally compatible with the historic aspects of the Historic District and made a motion to approve the submitted application. Ms. Chasen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7. 802-804 Princess Anne Street (APL LLC) – Exterior alterations

Paul Janney was on hand to represent the application.

James Lawrence, 802 Caroline Street, said the roof was in real bad shape and thanked the applicant for repairing it.

Ms. Mendell asked what would happen to the old slate. Mr. Janney said he did not know. Mr. Nelson explained that contractors will typically salvage what has value, but may not find much to keep from this particular roof.

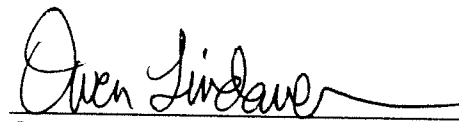
Ms. Peverill said she found the proposed alteration to be architecturally compatible with the historic aspects of the Historic District and made a motion to approve the submitted application. Ms. Chasen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Mr. Nelson transmitted the Planning Commission agenda.
2. Mr. Nelson updated the Board on the repairs accomplished at the historic lodge in the 1100 block of Winchester Street.
3. Mr. Nelson updated the Board on the stabilization measures being undertaken at the warehouse in the 300 block of Frederick Street, which is owned by the Cymrot family.
4. Mr. Nelson presented a series of photographs to show where an exhaust hood is proposed to be placed at 611 Caroline Street. The Board suggested the applicants paint the hood vent to match the existing terra cotta coping and forego the use of the screen.

5. Mr. Nelson transmitted copies of the Virginia Preservation Plan and staff comments submitted to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. He also explained that the City had offered to act as host if the state agency wanted to convene a meeting of jurisdictional ARBs and their staff.
6. Mr. Nelson reviewed discussions he and the Chair had held regarding another workshop. This item will be scheduled for further discussion at a future work session.
7. Mr. Nelson noted that three members of the Board were at the end of their first term and would need to consider seeking reappointment. In addition, there will be a vacancy on the Board when Mr. Waldman steps down and members should consider encouraging anyone to apply whom they believe might be interested in serving.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Owen Lindauer", written over a horizontal line.

Owen Lindauer, ARB Chair